

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT[281]

Notice of Intended Action

Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b.”

Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code sections 256.7(5) and 321.376(1), the State Board of Education hereby proposes to amend Chapter 43, “Pupil Transportation,” Iowa Administrative Code.

Recent legislation requires that local school districts examine the driving record of all current school bus drivers pursuing recertification and all school bus driver applicants on the Iowa court information system available to the general public. In addition, any driver or applicant who is listed on the state sex offender registry, dependent adult abuse registry or child abuse registry is prohibited from being employed by any Iowa school district as a bus driver. These proposed amendments comply with that new legislation.

An agencywide waiver provision is provided in 281—Chapter 4.

Interested individuals may make written comments on the proposed amendments on or before October 23, 2012, at 4:30 p.m. Comments on the proposed amendments should be directed to Mike Cormack, Iowa Department of Education, Second Floor, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146; telephone (515)281-3399; e-mail mike.cormack@iowa.gov; or fax (515)242-5988.

A public hearing will be held on October 23, 2012, from 3 to 4 p.m. at the State Board Room, Second Floor, Grimes State Office Building, East 14th Street and Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, at which time persons may present their views either orally or in writing. Any persons who intend to attend the public hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should advise the Department of Education of their specific needs by calling (515)281-5295.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

These amendments are intended to implement 2012 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2221, sections 3 and 4.

The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Amend rule 281—43.21(285) as follows:

281—43.21(285) Experience, traffic law knowledge and driving record. No driver applicant shall be employed or allowed to transport students until the board determines that the applicant has an acceptable driving record, demonstrates the ability to safely operate the vehicle(s) representative of the vehicle(s) required to be operated during employment and is knowledgeable of traffic laws and regulations pertaining to the operation of a school bus. Each local district, or the district’s contracted transportation service, must, at a minimum, check the driving record of each applicant or renewing driver on the Iowa court information system available to the general public. The local district shall determine what an acceptable driving record is based upon the district’s review and must maintain records of the review of each driver. Nothing in this rule precludes the district from examining other records to determine whether the driver has an acceptable driving record nor does it restrict the district to such examinations only at the time of hiring and renewal.

ITEM 2. Amend rule 281—43.24(321) as follows:

281—43.24(321) Authorization denials and revocations. A person who believes that a school bus driver who holds an authorization issued by the department of education or who seeks a school bus authorization has committed acts in violation of Iowa Code subsection 321.375(2) or rule 281—43.12(285) may file a complaint with the department against the driver or applicant. The department shall notify the driver or applicant that a complaint has been filed and shall provide the

driver or applicant with a copy of the complaint. A hearing shall be set for the purpose of determining whether the bus driver's authorization shall be denied, suspended, or revoked, or whether the bus driver should receive a reprimand or warning. Hearing procedures in 281—Chapter 6 shall be applicable to such proceedings. No school bus driver or applicant shall retain or obtain employment if the local district finds that the individual is listed on the sex offender registry under Iowa Code section 692A.121 available to the general public, the central registry for child abuse information established under Iowa Code section 235A.14, or the central registry for dependent adult abuse information established under Iowa Code section 235B.5. A hearing conducted pursuant to 2012 Iowa Acts, Senate File 2221, section 4 or 5, shall be limited to the question of whether the school bus driver or applicant was incorrectly listed on the registry. The driver or applicant shall not serve in the capacity of a school bus driver while the appeal process is being conducted.